

her name because the proper botanical name was unknown; however, they do not seem to be truly a cultivar, that is, a distinct form originating under cultivation, and therefore the name "K. O. Sessions" should be abandoned.

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### The Correct Name of the Mountain Fern

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For the last fifty years, the specific epithet *oreopteris* has been generally accepted for the mountain fern, usually known as *Dryopteris oreopteris* (Ehrh.) Maxon or *Thelypteris oreopteris* (Ehrh.) Slosson in Rydb, although the formerly accepted epithet *montana* has still been used occasionally.<sup>1</sup> Without any doubt, the oldest name is *Polypodium montanum* Vogler (1781: 4), which is, however, not available, as it is a later homonym of *Polypodium montanum* Lam. (Fl. Franç. 1: 23. 1778).<sup>2</sup> However, there is another competing name that must be investigated seriously, namely *Polypodium limbospermum* Allioni (1789: 49), which was validly published in the same year (1789) as *Polypodium oreopteris* Ehrh.

The identity of *Polypodium oreopteris* has always been clear by reason of the exsiccati sheets distributed by Ehrhart in 1785; sheet 22 in "Dekas II" of his "*plantae cryptogamae Linnäi*" [sic] bears the name *Polypodium Oreopteris* Ehrhart (as a *nomen nudum*). Through the

<sup>1</sup> Recently, Pichi-Sermolli (Taxon 3: 69. Feb. 1954) wrote that another epithet will probably have to be substituted for *oreopteris*, without indicating which one. Very likely he was thinking of *Polypodium pterioides* Lam. (Fl. Franç. 1: 18. 1778), which Woynar (Mitt. Natw. Ver. Steiermark 49: 156-158. 1913) and others have believed to be an older name than *oreopteris* for this species. However, I shall show in another nomenclatural note that it is not referable to the species in question.

<sup>2</sup> Concerning the date of publication of volume 1 of Lamarck's *Flore française*, cf. Becherer, Ber. Schweiz. Bot. Ges. 38: 24, 25. 1929.